

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

The Honorable Ben S. Bernanke
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Chairman Bernanke,

Over the past 18 months, the Fed has initiated 11 different lending programs to provide financial institutions and corporations access to more than \$5-trillion in government capital. These include: 1) the Commercial Paper Funding Facility (CPFF); 2) the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF); 3) the Term Auction Facility (TAF); 4) the Primary Dealer Credit Facility (PDCF); 5) the Term Securities Lending Facility (TSLF); 6) the Term Securities Lending Options Program (TOP); 7) the Asset-Backed Commercial Paper Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility (AMLF); 8) the Money Market Investor Funding Facility (MMIFF); 9) the Primary Credit Facility; 10) the Secondary Credit Facility; and 11) the Seasonal Credit Program.

Each lending facility was implemented under the Fed's existing authorities and none required a vote from Congress to authorize the use of taxpayer dollars to finance them. As such, it is critical that the Fed operate in the most transparent manner possible to ensure it is accountable to the nation's taxpayers. After all, in the end, it is the American taxpayers that will pay the bill in one form or another. We are all accountable for our actions to them.

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors recently replied to a lawsuit initiated by Bloomberg News that it would not make public the daily reports on bailout loans made to financial institutions. We respectfully disagree with the Board of Governors' decision and request that you release the following information so that the public may gain an accurate understanding of these lending facilities, how they operate, how they are financed, and how each investment is managed:

- Identify the financial institutions and corporations receiving taxpayer-financed loans authorized by the Fed;
- Identify exchanged collateral accepted by the Fed and include specifics related to how each transaction was measured and deemed a safe and sound investment; and
- Identify under what circumstances and terms the Fed expects to be repaid for each transaction.

Without this information, taxpayers are left guessing about where and how their money is being invested and public confidence in the government's response to the financial crisis erodes. This lack of transparency only adds more instability to an already unstable

marketplace – which is the last thing investors, taxpayers and the overall economy need. We do not need to remind you the incredible impact that consumer and investor psychology has on our economy.

The Fed's authority to make such drastic decisions without current approval from Congress raises serious policy questions that Congress must consider moving forward. But at the very least, taxpayers should have access to the details behind the Fed's operations and where it is making investments with taxpayer dollars. As you'll recall, Congress required transparency of publicly traded companies for its shareholders. The stake the American taxpayers hold in the Fed is just as real and deserves just as much respect.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of us or Jessica Taylor in Congresswoman Bachmann's office at 202-225-2331.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bachmann

Leonard Lance

Ron Paul

Jack Pitts

Jo J. H.

Ed H. Pata

Sam Johnson

Conor Hunt

John E. Fatta

John Culberson

Randy Neugebauer

Cynthia H. Lemmings

Zach Wamp

Dan Burton

Don Rumsfeld

Jeff Miller

Leon Smith

Bill Eager

Steve Chatter

M.C.

Ray A. Miller